

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:EDSMITH:LLL

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306399

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA)

1. FOLLOWING DECEMBER 16 CONVERSATION WITH ASST SEC'Y HARTMAN ON OTHER SUBJECTS (SEPTELS), TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL EMPHASIZED URGENCY OF HAVING U.S.-TURKISH DCA PLACED HIGH ON NEW ADMINISTRATION'S AGENDA AND PASSED BY CONGRESS AT EARLY DATE IN 1977. ESENBEL NOTED THAT TURKISH ELECTION CAMPAIGN FOR OCTOBER ELECTIONS WILL BEGIN EARLY IN 1977 AND THAT TO AVOID DCA BECOMING DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE IN TURKEY, EARLY PASSAGE BY U.S. CONGRESS WAS VITAL. ESENBEL RECOGNIZED THAT MANY IN CONGRESS WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER PARALLEL GREEK AND TURKISH DCAS AT SAME TIME BUT EXPRESSED FEAR THAT GREEKS WOULD AGAIN PLAY "DELAYING GAME" IN BASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. AS THEY HAD LAST SUMMER.

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2. HARTMAN NOTED THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE GROWING RECOGNITION OF THE TIMING PROBLEMS RELATED TO CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE TURKISH DCA, BUT POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF THERE WAS AT LEAST THE IMPRESSION OF MOVEMENT IN DEALING WITH THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. ESENBEL

RESPONDED BY REITERATING TURKISH AVERSION TO ANY LINKAGE
BETWEEN CYPRUS AND THE DCA. HARTMAN EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS
NOT TALKING OF "LINKAGE" BUT RATHER SOME SIGN OF PROGRESS
IN DEALING WITH CYPRUS THAT COULD BE POINTED TO.

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